

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 248

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT NORVA

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE: NATO CAUCUS NOTES  
SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MARCH MANEUVERS

SUMMARY: NATO MILITARY SECURITY CAUCUS REPS TOOK NOTE OF  
SOVIET FEB. 16 PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF "MILITARY MANEUVERS  
IN THE ECNTRAL PART OF THE EUROPEAN TERRITORY OF THE SOVIET  
UNION" TO TAKE PLACE IN MARCH. CAUCUS REPS IDENTIFIED  
CERTAIN POSITIVE FEATURES IN ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT AGREED  
THAT THEY SHOULD PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF THEIR OWN PUBLIC  
ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MANEUVERS ONLY IF ASKED, AND SHOULD  
AVOID COMPARISONS. ACTION REQUESTED: TEXT OF US PUBLIC  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUTUMN 1974 REFORGER MANEUVERS, FOR CON-  
TINGENCY THAT OTHERS MAY REQUEST IT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MEETING OF NATO CAUCUS OF MILITARY SECURITY  
REPS ON FEB 18, CANADIAN CHAIRMAN DREW ATTENTION OF GROUP  
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TO ARTICLE IN FEB 17 PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE, UNDER HEAD-

LINE "RUSSIAN MANEUVERS DUE FOR NEXT MONTH". TEST IS  
DATELINED MOSCOW, FEB 16, AND READS AS FOLLOWS:  
"THE SOVIET UNION ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT WOULD CARRY  
OUT LARGE-SCALE MILITARY MANEUVERS NEXT MONTH IN THE  
EUROPEAN PART OF THE COUNTRY. WESTERN MILITARY EXPERTS  
SAID THAT THE TWO-SENTENCE ANNOUNCEMENT IN PRAVDA AND  
OTHER CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS WAS NOT SURPRISING.  
'ACCORDING TO THE PLAN OF PREPARATION OF MILITARY FORCE,  
IN MARCH THIS YEAR MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISES WILL BE CARRIED  
OUT IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE EUROPEAN TERRITORY OF THE  
SOVIET UNION' THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID."

2. FRENCH REP CIRCULATED TEXT OF ACTUAL SOVIET ANNOUNCE-  
MENT, WHICH HAD APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 16 EDITION OF PRAVDA,  
ATTRIBUTED TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. FOLLOWING  
IS TRANSLATION OF PRAVDA ARTICLE FROM RUSSIAN INTO FRENCH:  
"CONFORMEMENT AU PLAN DE LA PREPARATION AU COMBAT DES  
FORCES ARMEES, AURANT LIEU AU MOIS DE MARS DE CETTE  
ANNEE DES EXERCISES D'UNITES MILITAIRES DANS LA PARTIE  
CENTRAL DU TERRITOIRE EUROPEEN DE L'UNION SOVIETIQUE.  
A CES EXERCISES SERONT SURTOUT MISES EN OEUVRE LES  
QUESTIONS DE COOPERATION ENTRE LES DIFFERENTES ARMES  
CONFORMEMENT AUX PROBLEMS POSES AUX TROUPES POUR  
L'ANNEE 1975". (NOTE THAT THIS VERSION DOES NOT CONTAIN  
WORDS "LARGE-SCALE" THAT APPEAR IN PARIS TRIB ARTICLE.

3. SECOND SENTENCE OF FRENCH TEXT CONTAINS ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION, BUT CAUCUS MEMBERS WERE UNCERTAIN WHETHER  
"LES DIFFERENTES ARMES" SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MEAN  
DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THE SOVIET ARMY, OR WHETHER THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT WAS OF A COMBINED, INTERSERVICE EXERCISE.

4. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET ANNOUNCE-  
MENT, CONSENSUS OF CAUCUS WAS THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN  
POSITIVE ELEMENTS:

A. RECOGNITION THAT MANEUVERS IN THE "CENTRAL PART" OF  
THE EUROPEAN TERRITORY OF SOVIET UNION (AND PRESUMABLY  
MORE THAN 100 KMS, FROM FRONTIERS) WERE OF PUBLIC  
(AND INTERNATIONAL) INTEREST;  
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B. FACT THAT MANEUVERS ARE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS AWAY,  
I.E. MORE THAN 10 DAYS OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION WHICH IS  
MAXIMUM SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO GRANT IN CSCE CMB  
CONTEXT;

C. FACT THAT SOVIETS ARE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING A  
NATIONAL MANEUVER, WHICH CONTRASTS INDIRECTLY WITH

POLISH SUGGESTION IN SUBCOMMITTEE EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT OBLIGATORY MULTILATERAL NOTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE LIMITED TO MULTINATIONAL MANEUVERS IN THE CSCE CBM.

5. CAU US MEMBERS ALSO POINTED TO FOLLOWING SHORT-COMINGS IN ANNOUNCEMENT:

A. INSUFFICIENT CONTENT;

B. FACT THAT PUBLIC ACCOUNCEMENT HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY NOTIFICATION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS (ALTHOUGH SOVIETS ARE OF COURSE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO DO SO AT THIS JUNCTURE).

6. IN DISCUSSION OF TACTICS FOR TREATING SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS, CAUCUS AGREED THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOTE IT WITH INTEREST, AND MIGHT IF ASKED BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE OTHERS WITH PAST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THEIR OWN MANEUVERS IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, THE CAUCUS ALSO AGREED THAT NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO COMPARE EASTERN AND WESTERN ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOR TO NEGOTIATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOVIET AND ALLIED POSITIONS ON CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION ON BASIS OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, SINCE PURPOSE OF CSCE CBM IS TO ACHIEVE CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS, REGARDLESS TO THEIR OWN PRESS MEDIA.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR EVENTUALITY THAT US REP MAY BE ASKED FOR AN EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF US MANEUVERS IN EUROPE, REQUEST THAT TEXT OF DOD PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUTUMN 1974 REFORGER MANEUVERS BE REPEATED TO GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL. DALE  
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## Message Attributes

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